

received for joint venture between Asian Breweries Limited, Singapore and Rajasthan Breweries Limited.

[English]

#### US Trade Law 301

6498. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Administration has placed India on its priority watch list under US trade law 301 for India's failure to provide protection to American intellectual property rights particularly its patents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with World Trade Organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) During the 1997 annual review by the US Government under their Special 301 provisions, India has been retained on the 'priority watch list'. Special 301 provisions deal with identification of countries by US Government which in their perception deny adequate and effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and fair and equitable market access to US persons who rely on IPRs.

(c) to (e) The USA has taken the matter in a dispute to the World Trading Organisation (WTO) alleging non-compliance by India of certain provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. India is contesting the allegations.

#### PSUs Liquidation Proceedings

6499. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings have been facing liquidation proceedings before the court of law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are determined to take initiative to revive these PSUs under the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Investment by Microsoft Corporation

6500. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Microsoft Corporation has decided to invest in India; and

(b) the project on which they have been agreed to invest ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) M/s. Microsoft Corpn. Pvt. Ltd., has been granted foreign collaboration approval on 15.1.1996 to set up project for manufacture of computer software, training and development, product support services and channel development and microsoft consulting services with foreign equity participation of 100% by Microsoft Corpn., U.S.A. amounting to Rs. 3.53 Crores (approx).

#### Wages of Coal Workers

6501. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unrest is growing among colliery workers due to non-implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in coal industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation and to implement the said agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) There is no unrest or agitation in CIL or its subsidiary over the issue of implementation of bi-partite wage agreements in the coal industry;

(b) Not applicable in view of reply at 'a' above.

[Translation]

#### Allotment of Index Number to Voters

6502. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to allot index numbers to the voters is under consideration of the Government so that there are least chances of any error in the electoral roll;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Coal based Industries

6503. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for setting up coal based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request in this regard from the Government of West Bengal and Bihar; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No proposal for setting up coal based industries is under consideration of the Union Ministry of Coal, at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part(a) of the question.

(c) No request in this regard has been received in the Union-Ministry of Coal either from the Government of West Bengal or from the Government of Bihar.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

#### Development of Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone

6504. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of Visakhapatnam as an Export Processing Zone is going on for years but it is yet to take off;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by what time Visakhapatnam E.P.Z. is likely to become operational fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone has been operationalised with effect from 1.4.93 on completion of basic infrastructural facilities of the first phase covering an area of 163 acres. Development of the Zone has proceeded satisfactorily after transfer of land in a compact block by the State Government. Of the 18 projects approved so far for establishment in the Zone, two units have commenced operation and another seven units are under various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

#### Target and Achievements

6505. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the country, scheme-wise, State-wise;

(b) the details of achievements made in the field of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the action-plan being implemented by the Government for promotion of the Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(d) whether any agreements have been signed with the foreign countries and private companies for the development of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Statewise targets are fixed for the installation of biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar photovoltaic (SPV) lighting systems and solar cookers. Statewise targets for SPV, lighting systems and solar cookers for the year 1997-98 have not been fixed. The details of schemewise, statewise targets fixed for biogas plants, and improved chulhas for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, and for SPV